FARM AND FIRESIDE.

—A compost of good muck with lime has sometimes been found as effective as manure, load for load, upon light and heavy soils.—*Chicago Journal.*

—If you are doubtful about the economy of using the finest potatoes for seed try a bushel at least, and see for yourself which will produce the most and largest tubers.—*N. Y. Herald.*

—Green clover turned under will increase the fertility of land five times as much as the same crop left on the surface to ripen and dry up and then ploughed under.—*Western Agriculturist.*

—The Germantown *Telegraph* advises ordinary farmers to hesitate before building expensive silos, but they need not hesitate to cut down the rations of corn and feed more roots.

—Farmer's Pudding: One-half pint of molasses, half a pint of water, two teaspoonfuls of saleratus, one teacupful of any kind of berries rolled in flour; thicken with flour and steam three hours. Raisins are nice to use in place of berries.—*N. Y. Times.*

—Brahmas, says an exchange, are often sick. In ninety-nine cases out of a hundred the sickness is caused by overfeeding. They are naturally disposed to lay on fat and must be made to scratch around a little for themselves. They are bad fowls to be kept in lots with other varieties, as they require different treatment.

—To a farmer, the idea of currying a cow, milch or otherwise, is an absurdity; but to dairymen, who have highly bred cows, who take a pride in their business and get the top price of the market for their produce, it is a matter of moment, in that it is known to increase the flow of milk and the butter produce by ten to twenty per cent. We say this is known, and will say further that it is so far an established fact that few, if any can be found to dispute it. —*Rural World.*

—Rasp the horn with a file to bring it to a smooth, even surface, then scrape with glass in the same manner as a shoemaker scrapes the soles of boots. This if carefully done will leave a fine, clean surface. Then rub with a piece of cloth and electro-silicon wet to a paste with water. Then polish with a cloth and oxide of tin wet with water to a paste. Sometimes the horn is rubbed down for a final polish with French polish instead of the oxide of tin. Whiting and chalk in water is also used. —*Scientific American.*

—A nice cup pudding is made from this recipe: Weigh three eggs, and use an equal quantity of butter, flour and sugar. Cream the butter and sugar, beat the eggs very light, and when all is well mixed pour into cups; fill only half full. Bake for ten minutes and serve with wine sauce, and have plenty of it. A good way to make wine sauce is to melt two tablespoonfuls of butter, drain it from the salt which will settle at the bottom, add the grated rind of half a lemon, and the juice, also; white sugar to suit taste; let this come to a boil, then stir in one glass of white wine.—*N. Y. Post.*

Variety in Farming.

It is the idea of many that any one can learn to farm. But as there are so many branches of farming any one of which will require years of steady and close application to master by the best minds, it is deemed advisable for all farmers to avoid undertaking too many things. There are some vegetables, grains and fruits which have been raised so long and are so well understood that their production does not require so much study and can be used profitably in making up a variety on the farm. And yet, these simplest things require active minds and close attention to business to produce profitably, and great care and thought to sell to advantage.

But there are many things which require the undivided attention and study of the most active minds. It will not often prove a success if any man attempts to carry on two or more of them at the same time. And while we would advise variety in farming, the diversity should be so selected that this one great division shall not be neglected by the care and absorbing attention of others. The successful farmer is most generally a specialist. It is not safe for a man to attempt to raise cattle, horses, hogs and sheep for breeding purposes, at the same time keep a large number of cows and run an extensive dairy, or raise cane and have a sugar mill, or go extensively into grain or raise hogs for pork. This would be spreading too wide, and many, if not all the enterprises will suffer neglect. One man's capacity is not sufficient for all these complicated branches of industry. Better way is for a man to make himself a specialist—a success in one branch. Conquer it thoroughly. Nearly all men who have made themselves eminent in the world have devoted their lives to one branch of study or industry. There is scarcely a branch of farm work but is full enough for one mind, if fully mastered and made a success. And this is especially the case with most of the new branches of farming which have been introduced within the last fifty years. If you will look around it will be seen that previous to that time it was not expected or required that a farmer should be a man of hard study as well as hard work. But the new enterprises and plans of farming require the fullest exercise of both of these powers of man to keep abreast of the push and energy of the agricultural and commercial world, both of which are now required to be mastered to insure success.—*Iowa State Register.*

Vitality of Dried Willow Germs.

During the summer of 1853 Silvester Piper, now a resident of Chicago, called my attention to a willow basket in a ditch, which had sprouts several inches in length all around it. A curiosity so remarkable—possibly having no parallel—led me to take immediate steps for its preservation. I dug the basket up with the greatest care and found it to be a worn-out cast-away, which had done service as a basket until it had become so badly worn as to render it worthless, when it found its way into a ditch at the base of the bank of the Illinois & Michigan Canal, about 300 feet from the Bridgeport lock (now within the city), from whence I transplanted it with great care, placing it in a wet place in my father's garden; but, notwithstanding its former vitality and careful removal, the shock was too great for the tender shoots and they all died. The basket was made wholly or in part of unpealed willow, whose dried and withered germs needed only the opportunity to return to life. I have often resolved to have the story of the "willow basket" written and placed upon record, while there were still living other witnesses than myself to verify it.—*Scientific American.*

Tuberculosis in Cattle and People.

At the International Congress of Veterinarians, held at Brussels last year, there was an exhaustive discussion of the following questions relating to tuberculosis, phthisis, or consumption, as it is commonly known:

First—What is the influence of heredity upon its propagation?

Second—What is the influence of contagion?

Third—What are the primitive measures to be employed against the bad influence that may be produced by the utilization of the meat and milk of animals affected with the disease?

The conclusion is reached that tubercle is propagated by hereditary and contagion, and numerous cases were cited in support of this view. As to the infectious nature of the disease there has been little dissent, especially since the discovery of the bacillus of tubercle. In view of the fact that consumption is transmissible by infection, the importance of adopting such measures as will prevent propagation of disease was recognized. In opening the discussion Mr. Lydtin said: "Phthisis is so common a disease that it deserves before any other ailment the name of universal panzotoic. This disease not only touches the preservation of our cattle, but also the health of man. If we succeed in solving the question we shall have reached a noble object—that of protecting at the same time the prosperity and health of the public."

The following resolutions were presented, as embodying the opinions of the veterinarians there assembled, and may be taken as embodying the views of many if not most of the scietific men who have made this matter a special study:

Tuberculosis is a malady which is transmissible by heredity and by contagion. It is a disease which should be combated by sanitary police measures.

Every stock-owner should be compelled to declare to the authorities the existence of tuberculosis among his animals, and should give notice when he observes any symptoms which lead him to suspect the existence of the disorder. It should also be compulsory to put the suspected animals in such a position as will prevent risk of the extension of disease to other animals.

This obligation is to be made to apply to every person having charge of animals in transit, and also to the owners of stables or pastures in which animals are kept. The same obligation to give notice of tuberculosis is to rest upon all veterinary surgeons or persons concerned in treatment of the diseases of domestic animals; also on all whose business it is to destroy or utilize or in any way manipulate the carcasses of animals. The existence of the disease and its locality is to be made public, and even in the herd in which it has appeared is to be named.

Meat from tuberculosis animals is not to be sold for consumption unless it is certain that the disease was in the incipient stage, and that the meat presents the appearance of being first-class in quality.

The inspection of animals afflicted with tuberculosis is to be performed by a veterinary surgeon who is to be sole judge as to the fitness or otherwise of the meat for human food.

Milk of diseased animals is not to be used for food of man or animals, and milk of animals which are suspected of contamination is not to be used until after it has been boiled.

Compensation to owners of diseased animals for losses sustained from the operation of the above police measures is to be provided by the State; and, as a means for providing the necessary funds, it is proposed to adopt a system of compulsory insurance, every owner of cattle being compelled to subscribe a certain sum in proportion to the size of his herd.

The popular idea in America has been that the domestic animals of this country, especially the neat cattle, are almost entirely free from contagious diseases, but in the strong light thrown upon the matter by the investigations following England's act in forbidding the admission of American cattle, the truth has become widely known. It is found that contagious pleuro-pneumonia has had an almost uninterrupted existence in the United States for many years; anthrax, lung-worms and Spanish or Texas fever kill many cattle each year, and actinomycosis has been seen almost every day of the last ten years, at least in the cattle markets of the West. Milk, butter and meat convey to mankind the living germs of tuberculosis, with which there is no doubt the cattle of America are more or less affected. By this means this dread disease, which has killed more people than have been killed by wars, is kept in existence and its hold upon the people is extended day by day.

According to the conclusions reached by M. Daremburg, and set forth by him before the Academy of Medicine of Paris, tuberculosis is transmissible by inoculation, inhalation, or by alimentation; it is always caused by the absorption of a germ from without; when occurring by inhalation the quantity of the contagion is of little moment; it can operate only in a suitable soil. Contagion is an influence to which all are exposed, but which is operative only in those individuals in whom hereditary or acquired vices of nutrition have prepared a field suited to the growth and reproduction of the germ. Local and general tuberculosis differ only in degree. Scrofula appears to be a diathesis, while tuberculosis is an infection engrafted upon a diathesis. The infectious germs are not usually inherited, but rather the vices of nutrition which have provoked the disease in the ancestors. Finally, the learned gentleman concludes that the destruction, through attention to general hygiene, of the causes which prepare a fit soil for the reception of the germs, should be a principal object in the treatment of the disease. After the disease is established the attack should be made upon the infectious agent, to put a stop to its existence and increase.—*Chicago Tribune.*

—Workmen while repairing the old Whitman Hotel at Smithtown, L. I., recently discovered in an upper attic what was the original slave pen of Smithtown before the revolutionary war. The room was lighted by only one window, about twenty inches square, alongside of the old-fashioned chimney, a structure four feet square, as it came out of the roof. It was partitioned off by means of slat doors, the slats being of iron, while the rafters overhead were thickly studded with sharp-pointed nails. Under the eaves were found two old muskets and some old-fashioned iron implements such as were used in the fire-place.—*N. Y. Mail.*

—Arrow-root gives a certain richness to sauces which renders less butter necessary than if flour is used for thickening.—*Troy Times.*

Diphtheria from Chickens.

I notice an extract from the London *Times* in a New York paper, stating that a German professor (Gerhardt of Wurzburg) has determined to his satisfaction, by experiment and observation, that diphtheria is sometimes communicated to persons by means of fowls. This will be a new idea to many people, but after all ought not to surprise Fowls frequently have throat diseases which sometimes kill them, and diphtheria is attributed usually to some want of cleanliness about the premises, when it cannot be traced to contagion from some person, it should be an additional reason to all who keep fowls to give them more attention in the way of cleanliness. And want of cleanliness is, after all, the cause of more failures with fowls than probably any other one thing. In addition, if diphtheria can be traced to this cause, one would suppose that every possible precaution would be taken to guard against it, though of course it will not.

The stables set apart for horses and cattle are cleaned every day, and sometimes several times a day. It is not always done in the best manner, or in a manner to make the best use of the excrements, but it is done generally as a matter of course, and without complaint about "the trouble." But when it comes to fowls it is very different. In the first place no pains are often taken to so arrange the roosts that the droppings can be readily scraped or shoveled away, or even covered or mixed with some disinfecting substance which makes it safe to let them accumulate for a few weeks. They are simply let alone and allowed to accumulate not only for weeks, but for months and even years. Fermentation sets in after awhile, or very soon in warm weather, chemical changes occur affecting the commercial value, disgusting odors arise which first affect the fowls, and then are wafted over the neighborhood, and insects of many kinds are bred in the pile, some of them hen lice, and these at once attack the fowls. In many cases "hen cholera" is developed, and the owner wonders and mourns at the extraordinary run of "bad luck" he is having, though I cannot see that there is much luck about it. It is about as natural a result as it would be to make the cellar of his house a dumping place for vegetable and animal filth year after year. In fact, the latter would be less pestilential, as the tight floor of most dwellings, with a second, sometimes a third floor above, is a partial protection; but the filth under a hen roost goes straight to the fowls above, unless a friendly breeze sends it in another direction.

Roup is a form of diphtheria, as any one will see who notes the swelled throat and eyes of the suffering fowl and its painful attempts to breathe. The exuding fluid or moisture from the mouth and eyes is undoubtedly poisonous, as is probably the breath also. The rule is to exclude all sick fowls from the flock at once, which is right, but not enough It is far better to exclude all causes of disease, and thus prevent it. A sick fowl is a poor thing to spend time on in doctoring. Its value is slight at most, while to attend properly to it requires about as much time as a horse worth more than a hundred fowls. In general, fowls of only ordinary worth had better be killed as soon as they are seriously sick, as a man whose time is worth a dollar a day to him cannot afford to spend many hours on a sick fowl. But in works of cleanliness he works for his whole flock, and also for his family. He promotes health and neatness, and this ought to be as great a pleasure to him as it usually is to see his house kept in neat order by a tidy wife. The slip-shod indifference to the appearance and condition of out-buildings and premises, so often manifested, is disgusting and disgraceful, and the quarters set apart for fowls are usually the worst of all. That there is a close relation between such premises and the health of rural families admits of no doubt whatever. Farmers have advantages for health which no possible care in the great cities can equal, and when they heedlessly render them nugatory by carelessness, they have to blame but themselves.—*S. P., in Country Gentleman.*

A Gold Coast King.

"Old King Peter, down on the Gold coast," said a former African trader to a *Tribune* reporter recently, "was a great 'swell' among the monarchs of that region. He was a rich old fellow and had a large wooden palace and fifty wives. I have frequently seen him after dinner lying on a mat, his head supported by one wife, while two others fanned him. He fancied himself a great magician and was so regarded by his subjects. He had been a great fighter in his day, but as he grew old he gave up war and devoted himself to trade and necromancy. One day I wanted to go aboard our ship, which was lying off the King's village. The surf was so high that no boat would venture out. I called on the King and found him just disposing himself for an after-dinner nap.

"'King Peter,' said I, 'what time surf go down? Me want go aboard ship.'

"'Surf go down?' said the King; 'me make surf go down all one time.'

"He took a little vial from a closet, and going to the beach poured the contents of a vial on the water, chanting an incantation the meanwhile. The next day the sea was as calm as a millpond, and every boat in the village was out. The old King was proud enough of what he considered his complete victory over the ocean. Poor old Peter, he is dead now, and all his wars and conquests and all his necromancy are dead with him.

"It is extremely dangerous down there for one not acclimated to get wet. If a boat is overturned in passing through the surf, a person thrown into the water is sure to have the fever, if he isn't drowned. I was going ashore one day in a boat in which there were some women. Being younger than I am now and much more gallant, I stood up in the boat and held up my cloak so as to shield the women from the flying spray. Of course I got wet myself and a few days after I was taken down with the fever.

"Once when we got down there we took the Attorney General of Liberia along. He wanted to prospect for gold. The natives are extremely adverse to having any prospecting done in their country. They want no gold nor anything else taken away, except in the course of trade. We did some digging, but the natives opposed all sorts of obstacles to us and we were unsuccessful. All the gold we got we got by barter. The natives do not take very kindly to their civilized brethren of Liberia, whom they call 'black gem'man.'"—*N. Y. Tribune.*

—Numbers of seagulls follow the farmers near Halfmoon Bay, Oregon, while they are plowing, and now and then swoop down, and swallow a field-mouse. In this way thousands of vermin are destroyed.

Breaking in a Horse Mackerel.

"See that man?" said the Captain of a cod fisherman at the Fulton Market slip, pointing to a round-shouldered, long-limbed sailor who was busy scraping down the mainmast with a piece of window pane; "wall, he's rid what ain't a-goin' to be rid again. No, he didn't ride no gale o' wind, nor no sea sarpint, nor no Davy Jones' cow. What he buckled to was a reg'lar out-and-outer of a hoss mackerel. I seen him do it," added the skipper, hammering the rail with a belaying pin; "and he rid him well, too. Hi, Amos, drop down a minute, will ye?"

Amos slackened away the halyard that had suspended him in mid air and lowered away, and, coming forward, wrenched the reporter's arm with New England cordiality.

"I ain't much on pipin' my own horn," he said; "but as Captain Lish has made the affidavy I'm bound to stick to it. It came," he continued, seating himself on the rail, "something like this: I was second mate of the mackerelman Weepin' Susan. That wasn't her registered name, but she was so master damp when close hauled that we gev her the handle sort of off-hand, and it stuck to her like burrs to a curly dog. We generally lay on and by between Bideford and M'nhiggan, and in a stress of weather put into the first hole we can ketch. One evenin' it come on to blow, and the hull fleet got inside of Fort Popham and laid it out, a snortin' nor'easter. After she blowed out it came on a dead calm, and the boys got on what they call a racket. There was over 300 sail of mackerelmen packed into a little harbor, so you could almost jump aboard of 'em, one from another, and on each was a crew of from ten to fifteen men, making probably 4,000 men in all. Wall, about noon, somebody sounds a fog horn, and in a minute more over 1,600 of them fog horns was a tootin' like they'd gone crazy, and the other hands what hadn't horns was a lammin' on tin pans they'd yanked out of the galley, and everybody was a-yellin'. I tell ye it made a noise that made the fish shed their scales all through the bay. I'll swan ye could hear the howlin' and roarin' five miles.

"Wall, the hull gang was a-goin' it when our skipper noticed a big school of what we took to be mackerel right across the bay in shore. You kin bet we dropped them horns and jumped for the boats, and in a minute was under way. A half dozen of the others see what was up and put after us, but we got there first, hev over the net, and was round the school in short commons. In haulin' in the net we worked into shoal water, and I was standin for'ard and holdin' the seine, when there came a jerk and a splash, and a big fish riz right in front of me, and the first thing I knew I was on top of a hoss mackerel twelve foot long. I fell right astride of it, and in tryin' to fend off the critter I grabbed it by the gills, and, Lord bless ye! in a second I was rushin' along on that ere critter's back like a steam enjine. I was so took back that I hung on for all I was worth, the lads a-screamin' and yellin' so 't I thought my time had come. Down went the big cuss, but he couldn't sink me on account of the shoal water. Then he turned up the beach, leadin', as luck would have it, right along one of these 'ere fences or fish weirs, and goin' like lightnin', the spray a-flyin', and I a-bracin' back like I was leadin' a charge. In a minute or so we reached the fence, and the critter gev a sharp turn and dashed up along to'ards the boats again, a stretch of two hundred yards. By this time the riggin's of the hull fleet was black with the lads a-screamin' and hurrahin'. I don't know how it came, but afore the critter reached the boat it slewed, and off I went, but hangin' on like grim death, his gills cuttin' into my hands like knives. But I was bound to hang on or bu'st, and hang on I did. My slidin' to le'ward headed the big critter in, and he rushed clean on to the flat. I rid him clean ashore, and if you kin beat that for ridin', I want to see the hoss."—*N. Y. Sun.*

America's First Traitor.

Were a child, and possibly a well-educated adult, asked who was the first traitor to the republican cause in America in the war of the revolution, he would answer Benedict Arnold. Such was not the case, however. Arnold was, perhaps, the most conspicuous of the traitors, but the first man detected in an attempt to betray his country was Dr. Benjamin Church, of Raynham, Mass. He was a graduate, studied medicine in London, and became eminent as a surgeon. He lived a bachelor, extravagantly and licentiously, in a fine mansion, in 1768. For several years preceding the revolution he was conspicuous among the leading Whigs. Of the Massachusetts Provincial Congress he was an active member. At the same time, while he was trusted as an ardent patriot, Church was evidently the secret enemy of the Republicans. So early as 1774 he wrote parodies of his own popular songs in favor of liberty for the Tory newspapers; and, in September, 1775, an intercepted letter, written by him in cipher to Major Cain, in Boston, which had passed through the hands of the mistress of Church, was deciphered, and the woman confessed that he was the author. The case was laid before the Continental Congress, and he was dismissed from the general directorship of the hospital. He was arrested and tried by a court-martial at Cambridge on a charge "of holding a criminal correspondence with the enemy." He was convicted October 8, and imprisoned at Cambridge. On the 7th of November the Congress ordered him to be "close confined, without the use of pen, ink, or paper; and that no person be allowed to converse with him, except in the presence and hearing of a magistrate of the town or the Sheriff of the town where he shall be confined, and in the English language, until further orders from this or a future Congress." He was so confined in the jail at Norwich, Conn. In May, 1776, he was released on account of failing health, and sailed for the West Indies in a merchant vessel. He and the vessel were never heard of afterward. Benjamin Church was the first traitor of the republican cause in America.—*Buffalo Courier.*

—An invalid lady residing at San Rafael, Cal., who was directed by her physician to take a daily sun bath of several hours' duration on the lawn, has diverted herself by patient and ingenious effort to tame a couple of humming birds. After two or three months of acquaintance the little creatures are now so trustful as to sip honey from a spoon held in her hand.—*San Francisco Call.*

—A factory in Worcester, Mass., is turning out from 3,000 to 4,000 pairs of roller skates in a week. Just think of the broken heads and bruised limbs those skates represent.—*Boston Post.*

EARTHQUAKES are not much considered in South America, where they are as common as other family jars.

THE most appropriate pastry for a free lunch counter—sponge cake.—*Philadelphia Call.*

NOTHING is gained by finding a man out. That is if you want to collect a bill.

WHEN a man's looks speak volumes, the best thing he can do is to sell them for old junk.

A WHEELING editor's library has been swept away by the flood, leaving only a volume of water.

"ORANGES should never be eaten in company," says an authority. That is true, they should only be eaten in a bathtub.

AS WE journey through life let us live by the weigh.—*All the Grocers.*

THE GENERAL MARKETS.

KANSAS CITY, March 4, 1884.

CATTLE—Shipping Steers	$5 15	@ 6 20
Native Heifers	3 00	@ 4 00
Native Cows	3 30	@ 4 20
Butchers' Steers	4 50	@ 5 00
HOGS—Good to choice heavy	6 35	@ 6 50
Light	4 00	@ 5 00
WHEAT—No. 1	90	@ 1 01½
No. 2	81	@ 85½
No. 3	72½	@ 75½
CORN—No. 2	40¾	@ 41¾
OATS—No. 2	29½	@ 30
RYE—No. 2	48	@ 49
FLOUR—Fancy, per sack	2 25	@ 2 30
HAY—Car lots, bright	7 00	@ 7 50
BUTTER—Choice dairy	22	@ 24
CHEESE—Kansas, new	08	@ 11
EGGS—Choice	15	@ 16
PORK—Hams	11¼	@ 12½
Shoulders	8	@ 10¾
Sides	9	@ 11¼
LARD	9	@ 9½
WOOL—Missouri, unwashed	17	@ 18
POTATOES—Per bushel	45	@ 50

ST. LOUIS.

CATTLE—Shipping Steers	5 75	@ 6 25
Butchers' Steers	4 00	@ 5 20
HOGS—Good to choice	5 80	@ 6 40
SHEEP—Fair to choice	4 75	@ 5 25
FLOUR—XXX to choice	3 40	@ 4 25
WHEAT—No. 2 Winter	1 09	@ 1 10¾
No. 3	1 00	@ 1 01
CORN—No. 2 mixed	48¾	@ 49
OATS—No. 2	34½	@ 35½
RYE—No. 2	58	@ 59¼
PORK	18 00	@ 18 25
COTTON—Middling	9½	@ 10½
TOBACCO—New Lugs	4 40	@ 4 75
Medium new leaf	6 25	@ 5 75

CHICAGO.

CATTLE—Good shipping	5 90	@ 6 30
HOGS—Good to choice	6 90	@ 7 40
SHEEP—Fair to choice	3 75	@ 4 75
FLOUR—Common to choice	5 00	@ 6 00
WHEAT—No. 2 red	92¼	@ 92½
No. 3	90¾	@ 91¾
No. 2 Spring	92½	@ 94
CORN—No. 2	53½	@ 53¾
OATS—No. 2	36¾	@ 36¾
RYE	58	@ 58½
PORK—New Mess	17 90	@ 18 00

NEW YORK.

CATTLE—Exports	6 00	@ 7 50
HOGS—Good to choice	6 90	@ 7 20
COTTON—Middling	10¼	@ 10½
FLOUR—Good to choice	4 50	@ 6 75
WHEAT—No. 2 red	1 09¾	@ 1 13
No. 2 Spring	1 05	@ 1 06
CORN—No. 2	62½	@ 65
OATS—Western mixed	40	@ 42
PORK—Standard Mess	17 25	@ 18 00

THE Burlington *Hawkeye* man says that "powder is like money. It's awfully hard to hold after it begins to go."

"I'M locked in slumber," murmurs the prison bird in his sleep.—*Philadelphia Record.*

IT is reported that Tokar has been taken, but how the enemy Tokar is not stated.

A RATHER free-spoken young lady uptown is called electricity because she shocks so many people.

ARTIFICIAL cork has been invented, and we shall soon hear of adulterated life-preservers.

THE man who "wouldn't wonder" must be the laziest man in the world.—*N. O. Picayune.*

A. N. K.—D. No. 968